

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /068 W

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R 110715Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7260

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, PINS, SOCI, IS, JO

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES OUTSIDE IBRAHIMI MOSQUE

REF: JERUSALEM 1267

1. CONGEN OFFICERS WHO WERE IN HEBRON AREA AUGUST 9 STOPPED BRIEFLY AT IBRAHIMI MOSQUE (TOMB OF PATRIARCHS) TO CHECK ON NEWS REPORTS OF DISTRUBANCES PREVIOUS DAY FOLLOWING MOSLEM FRIDAY AFTERNOON PRAYERS. ACCORDING TO TWO LOCAL (ARAB) EYE-WITNESSES, SOME JEWS (ALLEGEDLY INSTIGATED BY KIRYAT ARBA LEADER, RABBI LEVINGER) ENTERED MOSQUE WHILE MOSLEM PRAYERS STILL IN PROGRESS. AS REPORTED REFTEL, UNDER CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS JEWS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO ENTER FOR PRAYER ON FRIDAY UNTIL AFTER 4:00 P.M. MOSLEM PRAYERS COMPLETED. THERE WAS NO TROUBLE INSIDE MOSQUE, BUT WHEN MOSLEMS CAME OUT AFTER PRAYERS SOME OF THEM BEGAN FIGHT WITH GROUP OF JEWS INCLUDING LEVINGER WAITING OUTSIDE. SECURITY FORCES INTERVENED AND MADE SEVERAL

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ARRESTS.

2. WE ASSUME MOSLEMS HAD BEEN STIRRED UP IN ANY EVENT BY FRIDAY SERMON, WHICH WAS TO BE DEVOTED TO ISSUE OF MOSQUE. ANY PROVOCATION AT THAT POINT, IF IT OCCURRED AS ALLEGED, WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BRING REACTION. AT TIME OF CONGEN OFFICERS SATURDAY VISIT, JUST BEFORE 5:00 P.M. ALL WAS CALM. MOSLEMS WERE JUST FINISHING PRAYERS AND ONLY HANDFUL OF OTHERS, MAINLY TOURISTS, PRESENT.
NEWLIN

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